



Office of Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs (OEIA)
of the
Federation of Asian Bishops' Conferences (FABC)

Archbishop Felix Machado, DD
Chairman
Bishop of Vasai
Bishop's House
Barampur, Vasai-401201, Dt. Palghar
Maharashtra, India

Tel: (91 250) 238 1521; 238 2964

Fax: (91 250) 238 3333

Email: archbp.48@gmail.com

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Dear Cardinals, Archbishops, Bishops,

Greetings from the Office of Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs (OEIA) of the Federation of Asian Bishops' Conferences (FABC).

This October 28, 2015 is the 50th anniversary of the Declaration *Nostra Aetate* of the Second Vatican Council. This short but important document about the Church's relations with the other religions emphasizes the place of interreligious dialogue in the mission and life of the Church and teaches all her faithful to respect people of other religions and collaborate with them for the peace in the world.

The FABC in its First Plenary Assembly in 1974 committed itself to the triple dialogue – dialogue with religions, cultures and the poor. Since then this “triple dialogue has defined and described the character of the FABC.

The Office of Ecumenical and Interreligious Dialogue (OEIA) of the FABC wants to announce that it will hold a conference: *Asian Celebration of 50th Anniversary of Nostra Aetate*.

The Church in Asia will use the occasion of this anniversary to review the developments of our relations with the followers of other religions in our Asian context. While the Conference will briefly look at the history of *Nostra Aetate*, it will look at its impact and its fruits over the past 50 years so that we can look to the future of IRD in the reality of Asia.

While we are still working on the details of the conference, we want to inform you at this time that it will be held on 16-20 November 2015 at the Redemptorist Center, Pattaya, Thailand. November 16 is the arrival date and November 20 is the departure date.

We will be inviting representatives from the conferences of the FABC. We are expecting and requesting that the bishops who have been working in promoting interreligious dialogue within their respective Bishops' Conferences will attend the whole conference from beginning to end.

As with all FABC conferences, the participants will be provided with the stay and the food at the conference venue from funding we have received. There will also be a registration fee to help in the other costs for this conference so as to assist some of the conferences who would have less availability of funds to ensure that we have as wide as possible attendance from all of the Bishops' Conferences of the FABC.

We will inform you as soon as we can of more of the details for this important conference.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Felix Machado', with a cross symbol to its left.

+ Archbishop Felix Machado
Chairman – OEIA

Noted by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Oswald Gracias', with a cross symbol to its left.

+ Oswald Cardinal Gracias
Archbishop of Mumbai
President of the FABC